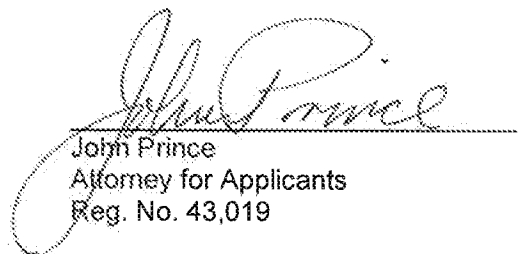


An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
One Health Plaza, Building 104  
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080  
(617) 871-3346



John Prince  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 43,019

Date: March 6, 2007